

THE ABSTRACT

A statement is provided having a clause that can specify an aggregate function that is performed on a set of data. The statement may alter the data in the data set by deleting or updating the data. The clause may be a returning clause that accepts one or
5 more aggregate functions for its arguments, operates on the set of data, and returns the result of the aggregate function without returning the entire set of data. Alternatively, a statement is provided for changing multiple sets of data without the need to place the multiple sets in a single array.